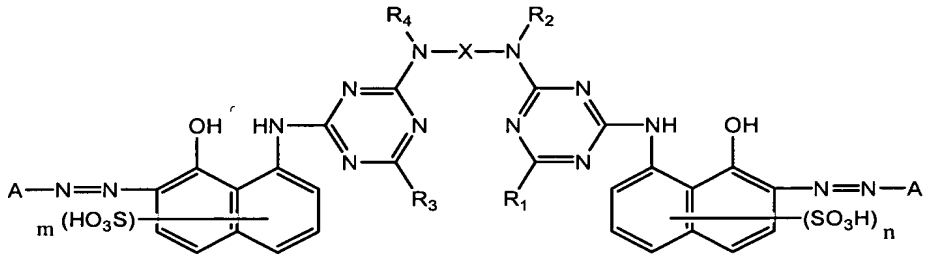
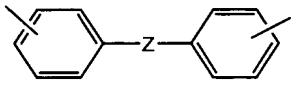
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording comprising a coloring matter and an aqueous medium ~~as main components~~, in which at least one of dyes represented by the formula (A) or a salt thereof ~~their salts~~ is contained as the coloring matter [[.]]



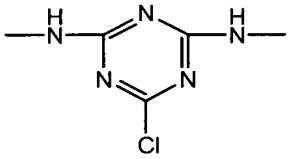
(A)

[[[ ]] wherein R_1 and R_3, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_2 and R_4, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group, wherein [[( ]] the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [[ )]], X represents ~~an alkylene group, a phenylene group, a xylylene group, a naphthylene group, a biphenylene group or~~ a divalent bonding group represented by the formula (2)



(2)

in which Z represents -CO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCSNH- or formula (3)



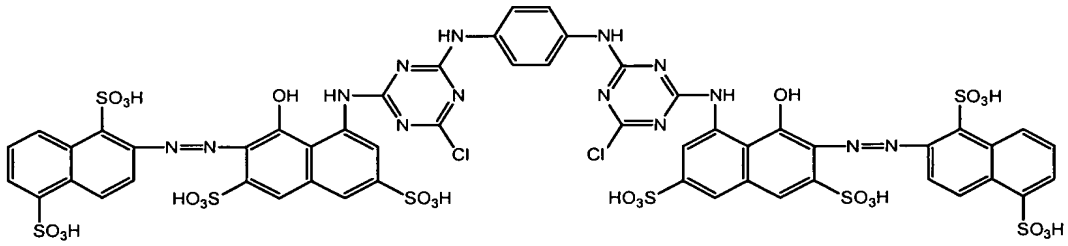
(3)

~~(these bonding groups~~ wherein the divalent bonding group may be substituted with a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group **[[ )]]**, and m and n, independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4 **[[ ]]]**.

Claim 2 (Original): The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (A), at least one of R_1 and R_3 is a halogen atom.

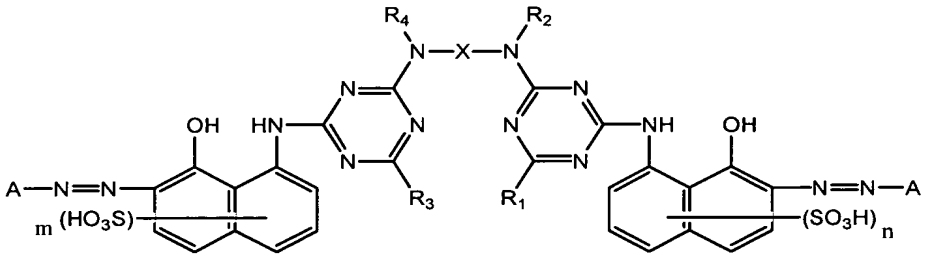
Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1,~~ Aqueous ink for ink jet recording comprising a coloring matter and an aqueous medium, in which the dye represented by the formula (B) or a salt thereof is contained as the coloring matter ~~wherein the dyes are dyes represented by the formula (B) or their salts~~



(B)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording~~, wherein a dye contains at least one of the dyes represented by formula (B)~~ according to claim 5, ~~other dyes~~ further comprising a dye represented by the formula (A) or a salt thereof



(A)

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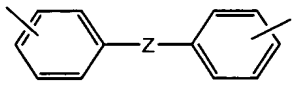
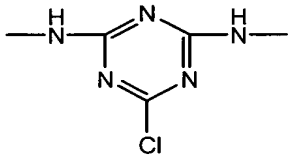
wherein R_1 and R_3, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_2 and R_4, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group, wherein the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid

group and a sulfonic acid amide group, X represents a divalent bonding group represented by the formula (2)



(2)

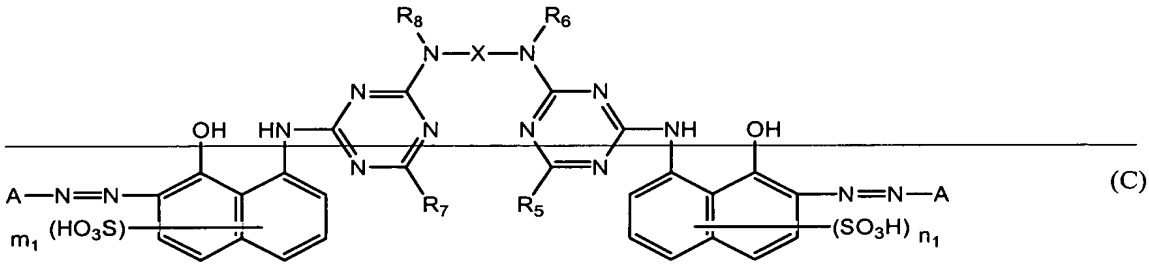
in which Z represents -CO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCSNH- or formula (3)



(3)

wherein the divalent bonding group may be substituted with a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group, and m and n, independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4.

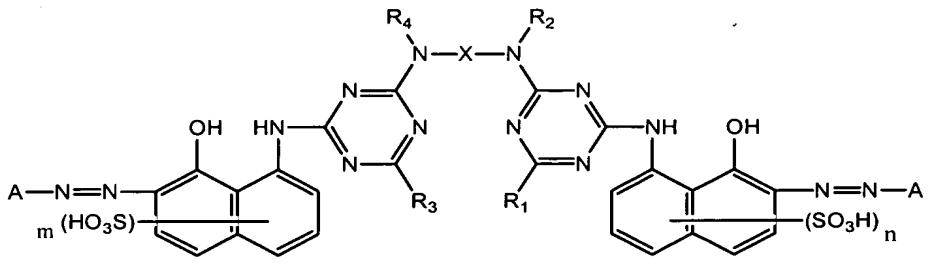
~~(C)~~



(C)

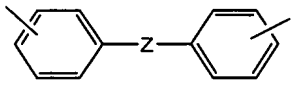
~~[wherein R_5 and R_7, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted alkoxy group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_6 and R_8, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group (the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group), X represents a divalent bonding group, and m_1 and n_1, independently from each other , represent an integer of 1 to 4] or their salts~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a dye, which comprises dissolving a dye represented by the formula (A) or a salt thereof ~~(C) or its salt~~ in water to form an aqueous solution, and adjusting pH of the aqueous solution to 9 or more to remove insoluble matters formed[[.]]



(A)

wherein R_1 and R_3, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_2 and R_4, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group, wherein the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group, X represents a divalent bonding group represented by the formula (2)



(2)

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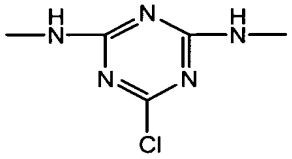
in which Z represents -CO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCSNH- or formula (3)



(3)

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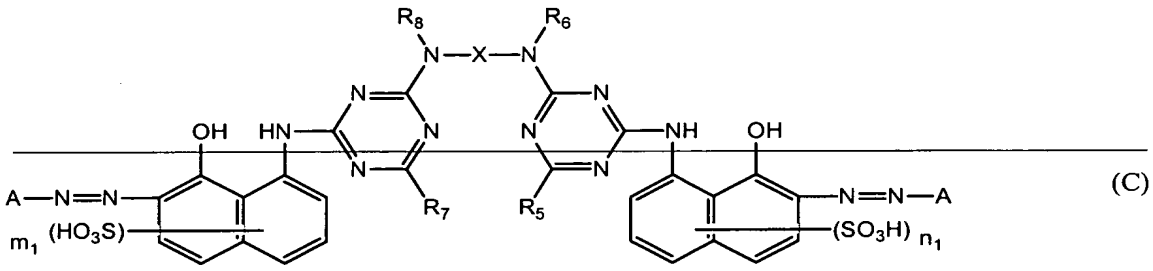
wherein the divalent bonding group may be substituted with a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group, and m and n, independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4



(C)

~~[wherein R_5 and R_7, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted alkoxy group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, R_6 and R_8, independently from each other, represent a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an aralkyl group, A represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group (the phenyl group or the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group), a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group, X represents a divalent bonding roup, and m_1 and n_1, independently from each other, represent an integer of 1 to 4]~~.

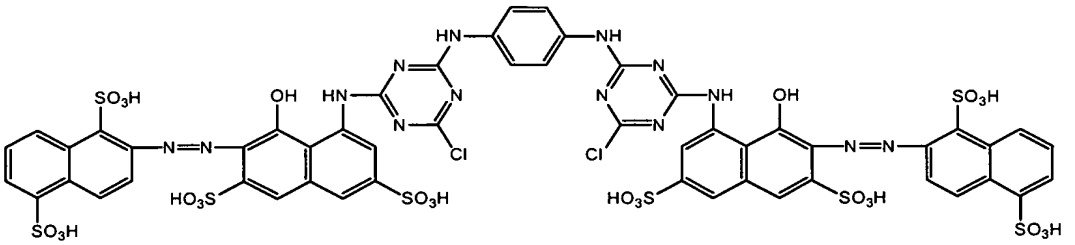
Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process for producing a dye according to claim 7, which further comprises, after dissolving the dye represented by the formula ~~(C) as recited in claim 7~~ (A) or a salt thereof ~~its salt~~ in water to form the aqueous solution, mixing the aqueous solution with a water-soluble organic solvent to crystallize the dye.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process for producing a dye according to claim 7, which further comprises mixing the aqueous solution obtained by dissolving the dye represented by the formula ~~(C) as recited in claim 7~~ (A) or a salt thereof ~~its salt~~ in water and adjusting pH of the aqueous solution to 9 or more to remove insoluble matters formed, with a water-soluble organic solvent to crystallize the dye.

Claims 10 and 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process for producing the dye according to claim 9, wherein in the formula ~~(C)~~ (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [[( ]] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [[ )]].

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~The process for producing the dye according to claim 9,~~ A process for producing a dye, which comprises dissolving the dye represented by the formula (B) or a salt thereof in water to form an aqueous solution, and adjusting pH of the aqueous solution to 9 or more to remove insoluble matters formed, and mixing the aqueous solution thus obtained with a water-soluble organic solvent to crystallize the dye ~~wherein the dye is a dye represented by the formula (B) or its salt~~



(B)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 13.

Claims 15 and 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim 2, wherein in the formula (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [[( ]] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [[ )]].

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [[( ]] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [[ )]].

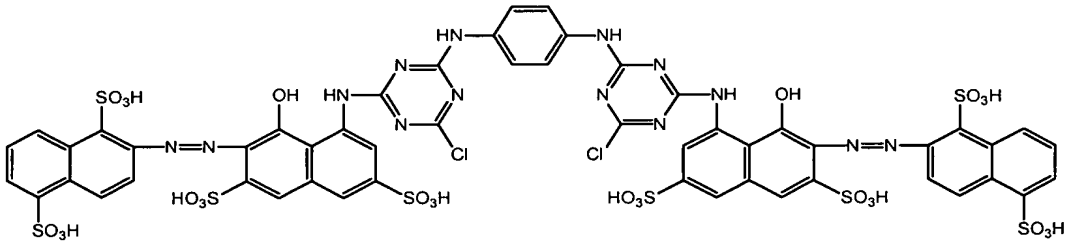
Claims 19-22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The process for producing the dye according to claim 8, wherein in the formula ~~(C)~~ (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [[( ]] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [[ )]].

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The process for producing the dye according to claim 7, wherein in the formula ~~(C)~~ (A), A is a naphthyl group, wherein [[( ]] the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester

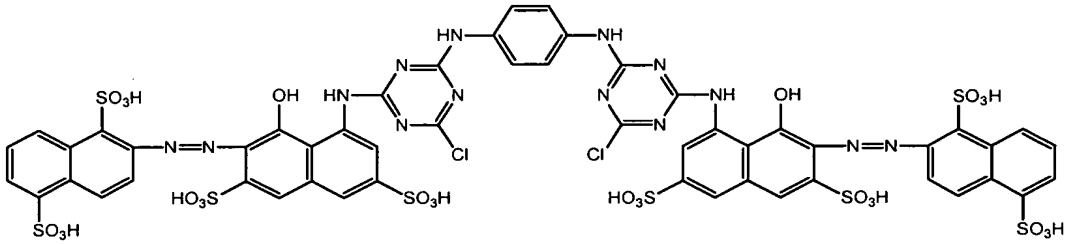
group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group [[ )]].

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~The process for producing the dye according to claim 8,~~ A process for producing a dye, which comprises dissolving the dye represented by the formula (B) or a salt thereof in water to form an aqueous solution, and thereafter mixing the aqueous solution with a water-soluble organic solvent to crystallize the dye ~~wherein the dye is a dye represented by the formula (B) or its salt~~



(B)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~The process for producing the dye according to claim 7,~~ A process for producing a dye, which comprises dissolving a dye represented by the formula (B) or a salt thereof in water to form an aqueous solution, and adjusting pH of the aqueous solution to 9 or more to remove insoluble matters formed ~~wherein the dye is a dye represented by the formula (B) or its salt~~



(B)

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 12.

Claims 28 and 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 9.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 8.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 7.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 26.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 25.

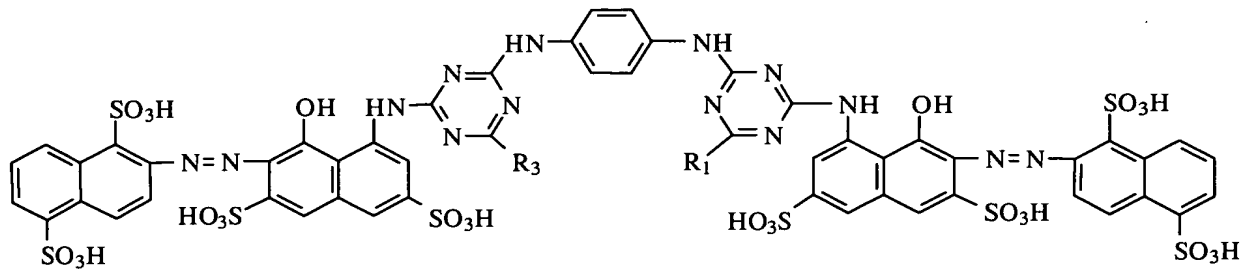
Claim 35 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 24.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): Aqueous ink for ink jet recording, wherein the ink comprises at least one dye ~~characterized by containing at least one of the dyes~~ produced by the process according to claim 23.

Claims 37-40 (Canceled)

Claim 41 (New): An aqueous ink for ink jet recording, comprising a dye represented by the formula (D) and an aqueous medium:

(D)



wherein R_1 and R_3 independently represent a hydroxyl group or a chlorine atom, with the proviso that R_1 and R_3 are not simultaneously a hydroxyl group.